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Kirkpatrick

## DECISION



THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL  
OF THE UNITED STATES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

FILE: B-198336

DATE: February 13, 1981

MATTER OF: Carlos A. W. DiBella - Temporary quarters  
subsistence - lodging with friend

DIGEST: Since employee did not show that his lodging at friend's home caused his friend to incur additional costs, he is not entitled to reimbursement for amount he paid to friend as temporary quarters subsistence expenses.

*Request for Reimbursement of*

The issue in this case is whether an employee is entitled to temporary quarters subsistence expenses for staying at the home of a friend incident to the employee's permanent change of station.

Mr. Carlos A. W. DiBella, an employee of the Department of Energy, transferred from Washington, D.C., to Oak Ridge, Tennessee, in June 1979. He seeks reimbursement for staying at the home of a friend in Oak Ridge based on a claim for temporary quarters subsistence expenses authorized by 5 U.S.C. § 5724a(a)(3). Mr. DiBella maintains that he is entitled to the amount paid to his friend, averaging approximately \$8.50 per night, since this amount is reasonable and less than one-half the amount of commercial lodging. B.B. Hensley, an Authorized Certifying Officer, disallowed reimbursement because Mr. DiBella submitted no evidence that his stay created an additional expense borne by his friend.

The applicable regulations - Part 2-5 of the Federal Travel Regulations - do not preclude reimbursement for payment of rent to a friend whose premises are occupied as temporary quarters. However, the amount may not exceed the friend's additional cost of providing the lodging. See Richard Ennis, B-190716, May 9, 1978. The burden is on the employee to prove the additional expense caused by the lodging. Richard W. Metzler, B-191673, December 5, 1978.

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Since Mr. DiBella has not met his burden of proof, by showing that added costs resulted from his lodging, the claim must be denied.

*Milton J. Fowler*

For the Comptroller General  
of the United States